



# JERRY PETROWSKI

WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

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Contact: Senator Jerry Petrowski

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(608) 266-2502

## Governor Signs Two Petrowski Bills in H.O.P.E. Opioid Prevention Package

**Madison, WI...**Today, two special session bills authored by Senator Jerry Petrowski (*R-Marathon*) and Representative John Nygren (*R-Marinette*), were signed into law by Governor Walker. Both of these bills, Special Session Assembly Bill 4 and Special Session Assembly Bill 11, are aimed at fighting opioid abuse and addiction in our state by investing in prevention programs for children and making it more difficult to obtain codeine, an addictive opioid.

“It troubled me to learn that in 2015, more people in Wisconsin died from opioid overdoses than in car crashes,” said Senator Petrowski. “Serious opiate addictions often begin with abuse of prescription drugs, so it makes sense to more tightly regulate the dispensing of these highly addictive medications. Early identification and intervention are crucial, and both of these measures will be helpful in our effort to address the opioid crisis in Wisconsin.”

**SS AB 4** requires a prescription for all Schedule V medications categorized as narcotic drugs containing nonnarcotic active medicinal ingredients, such as those containing the opioid codeine. **SS AB 11** allocates an additional \$200,000 annually to a program called *Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment* (SBIRT) which provides school-aged kids with counseling to help guide them through difficult situations regarding drugs and/or alcohol. Both bills passed in the Senate and Assembly with bipartisan support.

These are two of eleven HOPE agenda bills the Governor signed into law today. Last fall, Governor Walker created the Task Force on Opioid Abuse to advise and assist in the effort to address the opioid crisis in Wisconsin. The Committee brought forth a number of recommendations prompting the Governor to call for a Special Session on Opioid Abuse.

Representative Nygren, the assembly sponsor of these bills, serves as a Co-Chair on the Task Force on Opioid Abuse and has been working tirelessly on the Heroin, Opiate, Prevention, and Education (HOPE) Agenda since 2013.

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STATE CAPITOL

P.O. Box 7882 • MADISON, WISCONSIN 53707-7882 • [SEN.PETROWSKI@LEGIS.WISCONSIN.GOV](mailto:SEN.PETROWSKI@LEGIS.WISCONSIN.GOV)  
TELEPHONE: (608) 266-2502